



המכון הישראלי לדמוקרטיה
THE ISRAEL DEMOCRACY INSTITUTE
An Israel-Diaspora Enterprise

November 26, 1995

Prof. Yehoshua Lederberg
Rockefeller University
1230 York Ave.
New York 10021-6399
USA

Dear Prof. Lederberg,

As we approach the centennial of the founding of the Zionist movement and the jubilee of the establishment of the State of Israel, we consider it essential that those who think and care about the integrity and solidarity of the Jewish people recognize the changes that have transformed our State and our people in recent years, and that we ready ourselves for the new challenges that we can anticipate in the years and decades ahead. To that end, we have decided to form a commission on the future of the relationship between Jews in Israel and the Diaspora, and we are pleased to extend to you our cordial invitation to serve as a member of that commission.

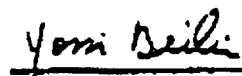
We extend this invitation to ten Israeli Jews and ten Diaspora Jews who have distinguished themselves in the intellectual, professional, communal and economic life of their respective countries. We ask you and your colleagues to bring the creative ingenuity and the profound commitments that have animated your own work to this project of cultural planning for the Jewish people.

It is our hope that the commission will focus its attention on the cultural, spiritual and social trends that now characterize the Jewish people in its Land and in its Diasporas, and that it will produce an action plan, to be put before existing institutions or to be made the task of institutions that would have to be created for the purpose. We ask you and your colleagues to produce an action plan that would strengthen the common culture and the shared experience of Jews wherever they live, that would join the limitless resources of our tradition with the untapped potential of the newest technologies for learning and communication, and that would bridge the many different languages and frames of reference that increasingly divide us.


We hope that the commission will begin its work shortly, that all its members will be able to attend a meeting of an evening and the following day during the second half of December to set a clear agenda for its work, that it will conduct much of its deliberations in work groups defined and composed as the members choose, that it will maintain frequent contact among their participants, using electronic media, and that the commission will meet again as a whole to determine its conclusions by next summer. The commission will have at its disposal the research and writing assistance of a small but able staff headed by Mr. Samuel Norich in the United States and Mr. Haim Weizman in Israel.

Dr. Carmon will phone you by the end of next week to discuss the tasks of this commission and, we hope, your participation in its work. Should you wish to contact him sooner, you may reach him at: The Israel Democracy Institute, P. O. Box 4702, Jerusalem, 91040 Israel; telephone 972 2 618244; fax 972 2 635319.

We look forward to working with you on these urgent issues concerning our People's future.



Dr. Yossi Beilin
Minister
Prime Minister's Office



Dr. Arye Carmon
President
Israel Democracy Institute